

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An active part for a surge arrester having two connecting fittings which are arranged along an axis at a distance from one another, having at least one cylindrical varistor column, which is provided between the two connecting fittings, and having at least one dielectric loop, which is supported on the two connecting fittings or on one of the two connecting fittings and a connection piece, which is arranged between the two connecting fittings in the varistor column, and holds together the varistor column or a section of the varistor column, which is bounded by the supporting connecting fitting and the connection piece, thus forming a contact force, wherein at least one of the two connecting fittings has an electrode, which is arranged at right angles to the axis and is in the form of a plate, as well as ~~an electrical connection~~ a current terminal, which is in the form of a perforated plate or a plug-in contact and which is integrally formed on the plate electrode, and means for supporting one end of the dielectric loop, which means are formed in the plate electrode and/or are integrally formed at the edge of the plate electrode.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 1, wherein an axially symmetrical centering tab projects from a surface of the plate electrode facing the varistor column and is used to guide at least one cup spring which is in the form of a conical annular disk.

5. (Original) The active part as claimed in claim 4, wherein the diameter of the centering tab and the internal diameter of the annular disk are matched to one another so as to prevent the cup spring from being pressed flat.

6. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting means have at least one shoulder which is integrally formed at the edge of the plate electrode and is narrower than the diameter of the varistor column.

7. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting means have a shoulder which is formed in the plate electrode and passes through the axis of the varistor column.

8. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting means have two shoulders which are formed in the plate electrode and are each arranged in one of two sections of the plate edge which run in a straight line.

9. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 7, wherein the shoulder has a surface which is largely parallel to the plate electrode surface

over the majority of the plate electrode extent, and wherein the loop is in the form of a rectangle and is supported on the inside by means of one of the rectangular faces on the surface.

10. (Original) A surge arrester as claimed in claim 1 having a housing which is composed of insulating material and surrounds the varistor column, parts of the connecting fittings and the dielectric loop.

11. (Original) The surge arrester as claimed in claim 10, wherein electrical connections of the fittings are passed out of the housing.